

Serial No. 09/723,200

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 18-46, 53-58, and 70-86 will be pending in this application. Applicant has renumbered Claims 80-93 as 79-92. Applicant has amended Claims 19, 20, 29, 41, 42, 44, 79, 80, and 82 and cancelled Claims 47-52, 59-69, and 87-92 without prejudice. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In ¶ 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested that Claims 80-93 be renumbered as Claim 79-92. Applicant has complied with this request and has also changed the dependencies of renumbered Claims 79, 80, and 82 accordingly.

In ¶ 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 19, 20, 29, 41, 42, 44, 48, and 49 because of certain informalities. Applicant has amended Claims 19, 20, 29, 41, 42, 44 to correct the informalities and has cancelled Claims 48 and 49 without prejudice.

In ¶ 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 18-93 (renumbered herein as Claims 18-92) under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant submits herewith an appropriate terminal disclaimer, which obviates this rejection. As such, the pending Claims are patentable.

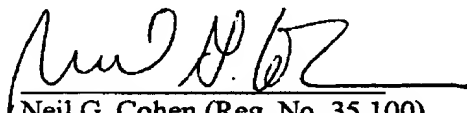
Applicant believes that Claims 47-52, 59-69, and 87-92 are patentable for at least the same reasons as the other Claims herein. However, in the interest of expediting allowance and issuance of these other Claims, Applicant has cancelled – without prejudice -- Claims 47-52, 59-69, and 87-92 as requested by the Examiner and as reflected in the Interview Summary.

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For the reasons set forth above, all of the pending claims are patentable over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Dated: May 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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